

# Early Childhood Equity Grants: Round 2 Refinements

April 2023



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**





## Today

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1. Summary of Engagement to Date
2. Key Takeaways
3. Round 2 Refinements

# Summary of Engagement to Date


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- DCYF utilized Liberatory Design Principles, coordinating with Ally Organizations to design the approach and facilitate design sessions with providers for Round 1
- The sessions took place in April 2022 and the design team:
  - Defined an approach to prioritize grant applications, leading with racial equity
  - Outlined a simple application
- DCYF Committed to a refinement process after Round 1, and between January and March 2023 engaged with:
  - Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) and Provider Supports Subcommittee
  - Indian Policy Early Learning (IPEL)
  - Ally Organizations (Voices of Tomorrow, The Imagine Institute, One America, Child Care Aware of Washington)
  - SEIU 925
  - Internal DCYF staff
  - Child Care Providers


# Key Takeaways



Identified ways to  
prioritize providers  
serving tribal children,  
and removed factors  
that unintentionally  
deprioritized tribal  
programs



Lowered the minimum  
amount a provider can  
apply for to allow  
funding for smaller  
project proposals



Created specific  
outcome categories for  
project proposals

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# Round 2 Refinements

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# Priority Score Factors

- Facilities serving BIPOC children.
- Facilities serving tribal children
- Facilities serving a children receiving state, tribal, and/or military subsidies.
- Facilities serving children experiencing houselessness or homelessness.
- Facilities serving children in out-of-home care due to child welfare involvement.
- Facilities serving children who speak languages other than English at home.
- ~~Facilities with a BIPOC licensee or license exempt program owner.~~
- ~~Facilities with BIPOC staff.~~
- ~~Facilities that use a language other than English in the care environment.~~
- ~~Facilities that provide care during non-standard hours, or 24-hour care.~~



# Grant Readiness Checklist

Adding a resource that focuses on:

- ④ Transparency of eligibility and prioritization
- ④ How to best communicate who is prioritized
- ④ Clear definition of what competitive means

# Categories of Allowable Activities

- Preventing suspension and expulsion
- Increasing the use of research-informed social-emotional teaching practices
- Increasing the use of culturally and linguistically responsive practices and decreasing bias in the classroom
- Offering ongoing child assessment and developmental screening
- Connecting families to services and supports that meet health, mental health, financial, or other needs
- Other



# Budget Categories

## Original Budget Categories:

- Program Design
- Program Delivery
- Staff Education/Training
- Program Evaluation

## New Budget Categories:

- Specialized Staff
- Child Care Materials and Experiences
- Office and Business Supplies
- Staff Training
- Program Evaluation and Assessment Tools
- Other Services
- Other Materials

## Additional Terms and Conditions

- Add questions about accessing technical assistance
- Add an attestation: “I have reviewed my application and am ready to submit. I understand that once my application is submitted I cannot make any changes to my answers”
- Add an attestation: "I understand that my application will be denied if I have requested funding for any of the disallowed costs described above"

# Community Review Panel Feedback

- Add parents to the Community Review Panel
- Continue to work with Ally Organizations to receive nominations for other panel members
- Work with Office of Tribal Relations to invite tribes to participate on the panel

# Notify Providers Earlier

- Notify providers whose applications were not identified as finalists, so they know earlier in the process that they were not selected.
- Notify finalist applicants at the same time, so there is more communication throughout the process.

# Reporting Requirements

- Grantees will complete a short survey twice per year.
- The survey will be simple and include an opportunity for the grantee to share successes and challenges as they implement their project.
- This will allow DCYF to learn more about project outcomes and may shape future refinement periods.

# ECEAP Eligibility

- Licensed ECEAP may apply
- ECEAP and Early ECEAP Contractors may apply
- ECEAP-Only sites and subcontractors cannot submit individual applications – the Contractor may apply for funding to support all sites.

# Next Steps

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**Finish updating  
materials and resources  
for Round 2**



**Implement a robust  
communication plan to  
inform providers of  
changes**



**Launch Round 2!**



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# Thank You!

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